

**CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY**

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

7 September 1978

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**MEMORANDUM FOR:**

**FROM :** NFAC Representative to the Intelligence  
Community Civil Space Policy Working Group

**SUBJECT :** NFAC Comments on "Satellite Reconnaissance  
Security Policy Alternatives"

**REFERENCE :** IC 78-5244, 5Sep78, Same Title as Subject

1. In general, the paper presents an adequate summary of the benefits and risks associated with potential declassification of the "fact of", and release of imagery from, satellite photographic reconnaissance systems.

2. We believe, however, that the benefit cited for declassification of "fact of" is inadequately discussed. Given that the "fact of" is a notorious non-secret, it appears improbable that declassification of only the "fact of" would allay public concern that we can adequately verify Soviet compliance with the terms of a SALT II agreement. Informed opponents of such an agreement are aware that certain qualitative limitations require more than satellite photography to monitor Soviet compliance. Such opponents could combat the strategy of releasing "fact of" by stating the limitations of such photography in the monitoring task and accusing the administration of taking an evasive action to cover up an inherently weak case for SALT. This could, in turn, cause increased pressures to reveal other sources to rebut such statements.

3. Since the only benefit cited for declassifying "fact of" concerns allaying public concern with US monitoring capabilities, this section of the paper needs to be addressed more fully. If there is indeed some significant chance that the objective/benefit would not be achieved, it would hardly be worth taking the risk involved.



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